

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 018604
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 NSF-02 COME-00
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DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB:MJB
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB
ARA/MEX - K. MCKUNE

-----121158 241939Z /64

R 241719Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 018604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TOCY, MX

SUBJECT: R/V ELLEN B. SCRIPPS CLEARANCE REQUEST, 3-12
APRIL 1978

1. R/V ELLEN B. SCRIPPS, A PRIVATE VESSEL OPERATED BY THE SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OFF THE WEST COAST OF MEXICO. THE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO CONDUCT A SEISMIC REFLECTION PROFILING SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE TRUE EXTENT OF FAULTING AND TO ESTIMATE THE POTENTIAL FOR EARTHQUAKE OCCURRENCE IN THE REGION OFF NORTHERN BAJA AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. AN AIRGUN PROFILING SYSTEM WILL BE USED TO MAP THE OFFSHORE EXTENSIONS OF THE AGUA BLANCA, SANTO TOMAS, TRES HERMANOS, SAN MIGUEL AND VALLECITOS FAULT, AND MAP THE SOUTHWARD EXTENSIONS OF THE SAN CLEMENTE, ROSE CANYON, CORONADO BANKS, AND OTHER OFFSHORE FAULTS PREVIOUSLY DELINEATED IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTINENTAL BORDERLAND. AN ATTEMPT UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL BE MADE TO DETERMINE IF ANY OF THE FAULTS ARE CONTINUOUS FROM BORDERLAND TO THE BAJA PENINSULA AND, TO MONITOR SOME MICROEARTHQUAKES ALONG SOME OF THESE FAULTS, USING SONOBOOYS, TO ALLOW BETTER EPICENTRAL LOCATIONS OF ACTIVE FAULTING.

2. THE CHIEF SCIENTISTS ARE DR. JAMES BRUNE OF SCRIPPS

AND MR. ALFONSO REYES OF CENTRO DE INVESTIGACION
CIENTIFICA Y EDUCACION SUPERIOR ENSENADA (CICESE).
BERTHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR TWO MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS AND
ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE SHARED AND JOINTLY ANALYZED.

3. SHIP'S CAPTAIN IS ROBERT C. NEWBEGIN WITH A CREW OF
8 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 8. ELLEN B. SCRIPPS IS 115
GROSS TONS, 95 FT. LONG, AND HAS A 6 FT. DRAFT. RADIO
CALL SIGN IS WEMN AND SHIP MONITORS 2182 KHZ AND VHF
CHANNEL 16 WHILE UNDERWAY.

4. A SHIP'S TRACK IS BEING POUCED WHICH SHOWS THE AREA
OF OPERATION. TRACKS WILL RANGE FROM ONE TO 60 MILES
OFFSHORE. SHIP WILL DEPART SAN DIEGO ON APRIL 3 AND
RETURN ON APRIL 12. NO OTHER PORT CALLS ARE PLANNED.

5. ACTION: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SEEK CLEARANCE FOR
ELLEN B. SCRIPPS TO OPERATE IN MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS
DURING APRIL 3-12, 1978. WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION IS RE-
QUESTED FROM GOM IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO PROVIDE COPY TO
MASTER BEFORE DEPARTURE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT CLEARANCES, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, ELLEN B SCRIPPS R/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE018604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WERB:MJB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780036-0143
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780128/aaaaaxmh.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cedfa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3722194
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: R/V ELLEN B. SCRIPPS CLEARANCE REQUEST, 3-12 APRIL 1978
TAGS: TOCY, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cedfa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014